

**MINUTES OF THE
VETERANS' AND MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION**
Friday, September 18, 2015 – 9:00 a.m. – Fort Douglas Military Museum

Members Present:

Sen. Peter C. Knudson, Senate Chair
Rep. Paul Ray, House Chair
Sen. Karen Mayne
Rep. Marie H. Poulson
Dr. Steven Allen
Dr. Marc E. Babitz
MG Jefferson S. Burton
Mr. Tim M. Cosgrove
Mr. Bart Davis
Mr. Brian Garrett
Mr. Jared A. Haines
Mr. Gary Harter
Mr. Johnnie B. Janes
Mr. Greg Rowley
Mr. Terry D. Schow

Mr. Rick Schwermer
Ms. Ann Williamson

Members Absent:

Rep. Val L. Peterson
Dr. Marc E. Babitz
Dr. Blair K. Carruth
Mr. Tage I. Flint
Mr. George Gutzmer
Mr. Frank Maughan
Mr. Jon Pierpont

Staff Present:

Mr. Richard C. North, Policy Analyst
Ms. Esther Chelsea-McCarty, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Tracey Fredman, Legislative Assistant

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 9:08 p.m. Chair Knudson excused Mr. George Gutzmer and Dr. Blair Carruth, and recognized Mr. Greg Paras in attendance for Mr. Jon Pierpont.

MOTION: Mr. Cosgrove moved to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2015, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Ray, Mr. Schow, and Ms. Williamson were absent for the vote.

Chair Knudson thanked Mr. Bob Voyles, Director, Fort Douglas Military Museum, for the invitation to hold a commission meeting at the museum. Mr. Voyles provided a brief introduction to the museum and offered a tour to commission members following the meeting.

2. Suicide Prevention Report

Professor Craig Bryan, University of Utah, gave an overview of research efforts about suicide prevention in the military population. Professor Bryan indicated that some areas of research include psychotherapy, which has demonstrated a reduction of 60% success in prevention. He discussed programs focused on working with military couples, and a project to help primary care providers identify individuals at risk of suicide.

Ms. Juliann Jeppsen, Captain, Utah National Guard, discussed intervention programs in use with the Utah National Guard, such as:

- ACE (Ask, Care, Escort) Program, which provides training for as many service members as possible, and the ASSIST Program;
- ASSIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training);
- Master Resilience Training, a monthly training meeting for all service members to provide personal tools; and
- Utah Comrades Peer Support Program.

Mr. Gary Blair, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Veterans Administration, discussed the outreach programs that are provided through the Veterans Administration.

Ms. Anna Belle Bryan, Research Manager, National Center for Veterans Studies, noted the need for funding so that suicide prevention assistance can be made available throughout the state to veterans and their family members.

Commission discussion followed. No action was taken on this item.

3. Veterans' Personalized License Plates: Policies and Process

Mr. North raised the topic of which Department of Defense awards the commission would like to approve for display on the veterans' personalized license plates, and how the distribution process of the license plates should work.

Mr. Harter indicated a potential administration problem because of the number of medals and the cost of hiring a private contractor.

MG Burton suggested that the awards should be combat related, which is what other states do. This approach would keep the program manageable.

Commission discussion followed. Chair Knudson asked for a subcommittee to be formed to discuss the issues and bring recommendations to the commission at a future meeting.

Mr. Kraig Thorne, Junior Vice Manager, District IV, Veterans of Foreign Wars, spoke to the issue and recommended a minimal cost solution for award decals for veterans personalized license plates.

4. Military Retirement pay and State Income Taxes

Mr. North distributed and reviewed "Utah Retired Military Pay State Income Tax Option." He also discussed three tax credit options that the commission may be interested in looking at, and the process that would be followed to implement the changes.

5. Draft Legislation: Workforce Services Job Listing Amendments

Ms. Chelsea-McCarty referred commission members to draft legislation, "Workforce Services Job Listings Amendments" 2016FL-0293/002, which was distributed in the mailing packet prior to the meeting. Ms. Chelsea-McCarty reviewed the background and provisions of the legislation.

Mr. Greg Paras, Deputy Director, Department of Workforce Services, distributed "SB 22 Briefing," a letter from the department to all governmental employers with detailed instructions on how to post a job on the department's website, and a flyer entitled "Job Posting at jobs.utah.gov."

Ms. Liz Carver, Employment Systems Manager, Department of Workforce Services provided a follow-up on what the department has been doing to provide assistance to governmental agencies in the use of the department's job posting website.

MOTION: Mr. Schow moved to recommend draft legislation, "Workforce Services Job Listings Amendments," as a commission bill. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Ray was absent for the vote.

6. Utah Veterans Courts Update

Mr. Rick Schwermer, Assistant State Court Administrator, updated the commission on the implementation progress of the veterans' courts in Salt Lake City and in Provo.

7. Fort Douglas Military Museum / Women's Military Memorial

Mr. Voyles updated commission members on upcoming exhibits and events at the museum. He referred to two letters that he sent to the commission chairs on June 19, 2015, which were provided in the mailing packet prior to the meeting, asking for consideration of state appropriations to:

- assist the museum in obtaining ownership of a parking lot at the museum;
- complete the two Women's Service Memorial statues; and
- complete the construction of the Memorial Park.

Mr. Dave Belcher, managing partner, Mountain Crane Service, LLC, spoke in favor of the support the museum appropriation requests.

Sen. Mayne spoke in support of the providing assistance to the museum.

MOTION: Sen. Mayne moved that a commission resolution be drafted reflecting the requests of Mr. Boyles in behalf of the Fort Douglas Military Museum and the support of the Veterans' and Military Affairs Commission. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Ray, Rep. Poulson, Mr. Schow, and Ms. Williamson were absent for the vote.

8. Other Business / Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Mayne moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Poulson, Rep. Ray, Mr. Schow, and Ms. Williamson were absent for the vote.

Chair Knudson adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.